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ANTI-COMMUNIST UNDERGROUND IN U.S. DESCRIBED

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NORBORNE, Mo., July 15 —
The only thing Communists fear
in their drive to take over the
United States is a strong anti-
Communist underground using
their own tactics against them,
Robert B. DePugh, national
leader of the Minutemen, said at
his headquarters here today.

He indicated that such an
underground already had been
formed by naming two far-right
groups "that don't even admit
they exist." He said they are the
American Veterans Against Com-
munism and the International
Alliance Against Communism.

DePugh cited also the Defend-
ers of the American Constitution,
a group which has headquarters
in the Washington, area. "This
organization is somewhat similar
to the Minutemen," he said.

DePugh said that no attempt
has been made to weld the far-
right groups into one unit or to
form an alliance.

"The continued separation of
such organizations is a deterrent
to personal aggrandizement or
infiltration by the Communists
and possible seizure of power,"
DePugh said.

Underground Operation

The objectives of the Minute-
men organization require that a
large percentage of the mem-
bers operate underground, al-
though some of the group's ac-
tivities are in the open, DePugh
said.

"Frankly, the Minutemen's
purpose in admitting existence
and operating to a limited de-
gree in the open was to permit
members to find us," he com-
mented.

Guerrilla tactics, weapons, in-
telligence, propaganda and espi-
onage are essentials in the train-
ing of Minutemen, he said. They
originally held maneuvers open-
ly with considerable numbers
participating, but now train
secretly, often at night, and in
small units.

Secrecy Measures

The Minutemen's membership
application form, which requires
great detail from the applicant,
is headed by the word secret in
capital letters. Minutemen and
applicants corresponding with
headquarters of the organization
are warned: "Do not put a re-
turn address on the outside of
the envelope when writing to
us."

Applicants are told in a state-
ment on the first page of the
membership form:

"The Minutemen are the most
dedicated, most active and best
disciplined American organiza-
tion in the fight to preserve our
Constitutional Republic. Experi-
ence has shown that the great-
est single danger to an anti-
Communist organization is the
possible infiltration by enemy
agents as new recruits.

"Although we recognize the
applicants' reluctance to give in-
formation about themselves, the
following data is necessary if
we are to judge accurately our
new members' degree of sincer-
ity and reliability. These appli-
cation forms are stored in such
a manner as to be quickly and
completely destroyed if any at-
tempt is made to seize them."

DePugh said that one thing at-
tracting new followers to his
group is "the fact that the aver-
age age of Minutemen is about
37, which makes our member-
ship the youngest among the
right-wing groups."

He said that the "vigor and
courage" of American youth is
required if the Communist take-
over is to be thwarted.

Files on Reds

The Minutemen have estab-
lished individual files for "68,000
Communists and fellow travel-
ers" in all parts of the United
States, DePugh said.

"We have made virtually no
use of this information yet," he
continued. "In the past some ex-
treme left-wing groups in this
country have assembled files on
persons who opposed them and
frequently have made vicious
use of such material against so-
called 'right-wingers,'" DePugh
said.

"I think it is beginning to
dawn on these extremists of the
left now that it works both
ways," DePugh remarked.

Representative Henry B. Gon-
zalez (Dem.), Texas, said he has
evidence the Minutemen are
partly supported by the Depart-
ment of Defense. He said the
Minutemen appear to be receiv-

ing free ammunition and weap-
ons from the Defense Depart-
ment through a little-known pro-
gram to promote civilian marks-
manship.

DePugh shrugged off the Rep-
resentative's assertions.

"Most Minutemen already own
a rifle of their own preference
when they join the organization
and wouldn't find it necessary
to buy one from the Government.
The purchase of ammunition is
no problem," he said.